

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 AID-20 COME-00 TAR-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 L-03 OPIC-12 IGA-02 RSR-01 RSC-01 /098 W

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P 051638 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0316

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: EIND, UK

SUBJECT: BALL BEARINGS - TARIFF COMMISSION HEARING

REF: (A) STATE 26371, 2/12/73; (B) STATE A-1343

2/13/73

1. SINCE MOST OF DETAILED INFORMATION REQUESTED BY REF A IS NOT IN PUBLIC DOMAIN, WE HAVE SOLICITED ASSISTANCE OF THE BALL AND ROLLER BEARING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (BRBMA) WHOSE 5 MEMBER FIRMS REPRESENT 90 OF THE PRODUCTION OF UK BALL BEARING INDUSTRY. IT MAY ALSO BE OF INTEREST THAT 3 OF THE 5 FIRMS (BRITISH TIMKEN, FAFNIR AND TORRINGTON, LTD.) ARE U. S. SUBSIDIARIES, A FOURTH (SUEFKO) IS A UK SUBSIDIARY OF SKF, AND THE FIFTH RHMP (RANSOME, HOFFMAN AND POLLARD) IS A BRITISH OWNED FIRM.

2. BRBMA WILLING TO ASSIST; HOWEVER, IT DOUBTS WHETHER 50 OF DESIRED INFORMATION CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE BY APRIL 15 DEADLINE CITED IN REF. A. BRBMA, WHICH HAS ENGAGED U. S. LAW FIRM (DONAHUE & SHAW, 26 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY, 10004) TO REPRESENT IT IN SUBJECT HEARING, HAS ALREADY BEEN ADVISED BY THIS LAW FIRM THAT DESPITE APRIL 15 DEADLINE REQUESTED EVIDENCE CAN BE SUBMITTED UP TO THE END OF JUNE.

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3. IN ADDITION, THE BRBMA ASKED THE EMBASSY TO REQUEST THE TARIFF COMMISSION (TC) TO DELAY ITS HEARING FOR TWO MONTHS. WE ADVISED THE ASSOCIATION THAT A POSTPONEMENT OF THE TC HEARING IS VERY UNLIKELY BUT AGREED TO PASS THE REQUEST ON.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: PLEASE CONFIRM IF LAW FIRMS CONTENTION THAT INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM BRBMA AFTER APRIL 15 AND UP TO END OF JUNE CAN STILL BE INTRODUCED INTO TC DELIBERATIONS IS CORRECT. WE ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE A REPLY TO THE BRBMA'S REQUEST FOR A 2 MONTH POSTPONEMENT OF TC HEARINGS. LASTLY, SINCE 3 OF 5 LARGEST FIRMS IN BRBMA ARE U. S. SUBSIDIARIES, WE ASSUME THAT MUCH OF DESIRED INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED VIA THEIR U. S. PARENTS. IS THIS BEING DONE? REQUEST REPLY PRIOR APRIL 9 AS WE EXPECT MEET WITH BRBMA ON APRIL 11 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION IT CAN READILY MAKE AVAILABLE.
SOHM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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